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PTO/SB/05 (4/98)
Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032
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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	24200
First Inventor or Application Identifier	Boyd
Title	External Perimeter Monitoring System
Express Mail Label No.	EL529354312US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231

1. [X] *Fee Transmittal Form *(e.g., PTO/SB/117)*
   (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. [X] Specification [Total Pages 23]
   (preferred arrangement set forth below)
   - Descriptive title of the Invention
   - Cross References to Related Applications
   - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
   - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
   - Background of the Invention
   - Brief Summary of the Invention
   - Brief Description of the Drawings *(if filed)*
   - Detailed Description
   - Claim(s)
   - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. [X] Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 5]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
   a. [X] Newly executed (original or copy)
   b. [ ] Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)*
      i. [ ] DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

5. [ ] Microfiche Computer Program *(Appendix)*
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all necessary)*
   a. [ ] Computer Readable Copy
   b. [ ] Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
   c. [ ] Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. [X] Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. [ ] 37 C.F.R.§3.73(b) Statement *(when there is an assignee)* [X] Power of Attorney
9. [ ] English Translation Document (if *applicable*)
10. [ ] Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 [ ] Copies of IDS Citations
11. [ ] Preliminary Amendment
12. [X] Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) *(Should be specifically itemized)*
13. [ ] * Small Entity Statement(s) (PTO/SB/09-12) [ ] Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
14. [ ] Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*
15. [X] Other: Data Entry Sheet
    Check $385.00

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, *check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:*
    [ ] Continuation [ ] Divisional [ ] Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: ____/____
    Prior application information: Examiner ____ *Group / Art Unit:* ____

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

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Signature	Ken Hoffmeister	Date	3/10/00

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PTO/SB/09 (12-97)
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Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

Docket Number (Optional)
24200

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Randall D. Boyd, et al.

Application or Patent No.:

Filed or Issued:

Title: External Perimeter Monitoring System

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- [X] the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- [ ] the application identified above.
- [ ] the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- [ ] No such person, concern, or organization exists.
- [X] Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Radio Systems Corporation
10427 Electic Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37932

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

Randall D. Boyd	Christopher E. Mainini	
NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
Signature of inventor	Signature of inventor	Signature of inventor
2/29/00	2/29/00	
Date	Date	Date

PTO/SB/10 (12-97)
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STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))--SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

Docket Number (Optional) 24200

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Randall D.Boyd, et al.
Application or Patent No.:
Filed or Issued:
Title: External Perimeter Monitoring System

I hereby state that I am
☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Radio Systems Corporation

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN 10427 Electic Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37932

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☐ the application identified above.
☐ the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:
☒ no such person, concern, or organization exists.
☐ each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

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SIGNATURE _____ DATE 2/29/00

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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Application Information

Title Line One::	External Perimeter Monitoring System
Title Line Two::	
Title Line Three::	
Title Line Four::	
Title Line Five::	
Title Line Six::	
Title Line Seven::	
Total Drawing Sheets::	5
Formal Drawings?::	Yes
Application Type::	Utility
Docket Number::	24200

Representative Information

Registration Number One::	27,371
Registration Number Two::	35,486
Registration Number Three::	41,636
Registration Number Four::	42,170
Registration Number Five::	43,675
Registration Number Six::	20,972
Registration Number Seven::	42,605
Registration Number Eight::	28,413

EXTERNAL PERIMETER MONITORING SYSTEM

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EXTERNAL PERIMETER MONITORING SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

This invention relates to a system for monitoring an outdoor perimeter. More particularly, this invention relates to a system for monitoring activity along a wire bounded perimeter.

2. Description of the Related Art

Residential and light commercial security systems have become an increasingly popular addition to many homes and businesses. These systems are typically based on the electronic detection of a breach in the perimeter of the structure. A breach is detected at either the perimeter itself or the interior of the structure. The perimeter is generally defined as the entrance/egress points to a structure such as doors and windows. Perimeter breaches are generally detected by magnetic sensors which monitor the opening and closing of doors and windows and by frequency sensors attuned to the sound of glass breakage. Interior breaches are generally detected by heat and motion detectors which monitor moving objects having a temperature greater

than the ambient temperature. While providing a warning of intrusion, both the detection of perimeter and interior breaches occur after damage to the structure or entry has been obtained.

Similarly, motion sensors are used to turn on outdoor lighting thereby providing a deterrent to intrusion onto the property. However, these sensors are indiscriminate in that they may be triggered by small animals, children, or other moving objects which are not considered security risks. Further, because of the difficulty in accurately setting the range of each sensor, the limited sensor range, and the arcuate detection zone of each sensor, setting up a comprehensive coverage area limited to the boundaries of one's property is difficult at best. Finally, it should be noted that while the external sensors could be connected to a central alarm system, the inability to discriminate between legitimate security risks and stray animals and the difficulty in defining the protection area render such a system unreliable.

Ideally, a monitoring system could identify and announce activity along the monitored perimeter. Accordingly, there is a need for a monitoring system which allows a boundary of protection to be easily defined. Further, there is a need for a monitoring system capable of identifying potential threats to security so as to avoid false alarms.

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a monitoring system which permits a fixed protection boundary to be defined.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a monitoring system which detects activity along the borders of the protection area.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a monitoring system which discriminates between various types of activity.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a monitoring system which can be integrated with an existing residential and light commercial security system.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a monitoring system which can be added into an existing pet containment system.

Yet a still further object of the present invention to provide a monitoring system which defines the protected area using a single wire.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A system for detecting activity along a wire-bounded perimeter is provided. The system includes a single-conductor wire which bounds an area defined as the protected area. Electrically connected to the wire at predetermined locations is a series of sensors and a transponder.

The transponder serves as the controller for the system. Each of the sensors is provided with a unique identification, or address, allowing the transponder to communicate with a selected sensor. Communication is accomplished using an addressable data packet transmitted along the wire using a frequency shift keying technique.

The sensors of the present invention each include a communication interface, a transceiver, a DC power source, and an

activity measuring device. There are two general types of sensors used in the present invention. First are the wired sensors wherein the communication interface is a transformer physically coupled to the wire. Next are the mobile sensors which operate without actual physical connection to the wire. The communication interface of the mobile sensors is a single-turn, inductive antenna placed near, but not directly over, the wire and oriented in a substantially vertical orientation with respect to the wire, thereby creating a mutual inductive coupling allowing bidirectional communication. The signal transmitted through the wire generally includes a power signal, or carrier, to which a modulated data signal is attached. The timing of the data signals is controlled by the transponder.

Each of the sensors is provided with a unique identification, or address, allowing the transponder to communicate with a particular sensor. Communication is accomplished using a data packet having a header containing at least a frame synchronization code, at least one command character, at least one address character, and a security code. The command packet is transmitted through the wire using any appropriate modulation scheme.

When a request is received by the sensor, the activity measurement device is activated to detect local activity through one of a variety of detection methods. The activity measuring device is positioned and adjusted such that activity near or approaching the perimeter of the protected area from the outside is detected. The detected activity signal is then encoded by the microprocessor and transmitted to the transponder by the transceiver. The transponder

comparison device compares the measured activity signal to exemplary activity profiles from selected activity sources, such as vehicles, animals, and humans. A result generated from the comparison is generated and interpreted by the transponder processing device. Should activity be detected, the transponder processing device then generates an alert which is transmitted to a user through the indicator and/or to an external conventional residential and light commercial security system through the external interface.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The above-mentioned features of the invention will become more clearly understood from the following detailed description of the invention read together with the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a system for monitoring a wire bounded perimeter showing various features of the transponder of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a system for monitoring a wire bounded perimeter showing various embodiments of the sensors of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a sensor showing various features of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a block diagram of an alternate embodiment of the system of the present invention incorporating a pet containment transmitter to provide additional functionality; and

Figure 5 is a block diagram of an alternate embodiment of the

transponder of Figure 1 replacing the memory and comparison devices with a digital signal processor.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A system for a monitoring a wire-bounded perimeter is illustrated generally at **10** in the figures. The system for monitoring a wire bounded perimeter, or monitoring system **10**, uses at least one sensor **14** located at a predetermined location around a protected area **13** to identify activity at the perimeter of the protected area **13**.

Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram of the monitoring system **10** of the present invention. The monitoring system **10** includes a single-conductor wire **12** which bounds an area defined as the protected area **13**. Electrically connected to the wire **12** at predetermined locations are a series of sensors **14** and a transponder **16**. In the illustrated embodiment, the transponder **16** includes a processing device **18**, a gateway **20**, a comparison device **22**, a memory device **24**, an indicator **26**, an external interface **28**, and a power supply **30**. Corresponding elements of the monitoring system **10** are labeled with like numerals.

The transponder **16** serves as the controller for the monitoring system **10**. Specifically, the transponder **16** supplies power, receives data from the sensors **14**, processes the received data, displays information about the processed data, and communicates with external devices, such as a conventional residential and light commercial security system (not shown). The transponder processing device **18** sequences the operation of these functions. One skilled in the art will

recognize that the processing device may be implemented in a variety of ways including discrete logical components (not shown) and a microprocessor (not shown). In the illustrated embodiment, the transponder processing device **18** is a microprocessor to allow the functionality of the transponder **16** to be varied, with minimal hardware changes, through the use of software. Typical functions of the transponder processing device **18** include providing timing to control signal traffic across the wire **12**, requesting information from the sensors **14**, and analyzing the information received from the sensors **14**. Additionally, the transponder processing device **18** generates an output which is sent to an external interface **24**. The external interface **24** translates the output into a form which is usable by a conventional residential and light commercial security system allowing the perimeter monitoring system **10** of the present invention to be integrated with an existing structural intrusion detection system. Such integration allows the perimeter monitoring system **10** to be monitored by an off-premises security monitoring company.

Many of these functions compete for transmission time across the single conductor wire **12**. The gateway **20** manages access to the wire **12**. One skilled in the art will recognize that a variety of electrical components can be used to implement the gateway **20** including switches, multiplexers, gates, and universal asymmetric receiver-transmitters (UARTs). In the illustrated embodiment the gateway **20** is a UART responsive to the transponder processing device **18**. Generally, the transponder processing device **18** directs the gateway **20** which of the various signals has the right-of-way on the wire **12**.

Among the signals competing for use of the wire **12** are information signals directed to one or more sensors **14** from the transponder processing device **18**, and information signals from one or more sensors **14** directed to the transponder processing device **18**. In general, the wire **12** carries a power signal from the power supply **30**. Data signals are encoded into the base signal by applying a modulation technique, such as frequency shift keying.

To monitor activity near the perimeter of the protected area **13**, the transponder **16** requests information from each sensor **14** by sending a data packet containing the appropriate command characters to the particular sensor **14**. When energized, each sensor **14** detects local activity and sends the detected activity signal to the transponder **16** for processing. The transponder **16** compares the detected activity to a variety of exemplary activity signals. Using the comparison result, the transponder then categorizes detected activity within one of the predetermined classes. One skilled in the art will recognize that various types of sensors **14** can be used depending upon the desired monitoring capabilities of the system, including, but not limited to, seismic, infrared, and audio sensors. Further, one skilled in the art will recognize that various levels of sophistication in the discrimination process can be used to provide more specific identification of the activity source.

Figure 2 illustrates a block diagram of the present invention with emphasis on the various embodiments of the sensors **14**. The sensors **14** each include a communication interface **32**, a transceiver **34**, a DC power source **36**, and an activity measuring device **38**. There

are two general types of sensors **14** used in the present invention. First are the wired sensors **14A, 14B, 14C, 14D**. In each of the wired sensors **14A, 14B, 14C, 14D**, the communication interface **32** is a transformer physically coupled to the wire **12**. Next are the mobile sensors **14E, 14F** which operate without actual physical connection to the wire **12**. The communication interface **32** of the mobile sensors **14E, 14F** is a single-turn, inductive antenna placed near, but not directly over, the wire **12** and oriented in a substantially vertical orientation with respect to the wire **12**, thereby creating a mutual inductive coupling allowing bidirectional communication. In the illustrated embodiment, a variety of DC power sources **36** are shown. First is a power conditioning in-line zener diode **36A** connected to wire **12** for generating a DC voltage drop used to power the sensor **34**. Next is a DC transformer **36B** for converting the AC voltage traveling through wire **12** into a DC voltage. Finally, an independent power source **36C, 36D** is shown. The independent power source **36C, 36D** can be a battery or a solar cell. One skilled in the art will recognize that the independent power source **36D** provides the greatest benefit when used in a mobile sensor **14D** such that it can be readily moved without the need for connection to an external power source.

Each of the sensors **14** is provided with a unique identification, or address, allowing the transponder **16** to communicate with a particular sensor **14**. Communication is accomplished using a data packet having a header containing at least a frame synchronization code, at least one command character, at least one address character, and a security code. One skilled in the art will recognize that other

information may be included including, but not limited to, packet size and checksum information. In the illustrated embodiment, the data packet is transmitted using an RS-232 data format. The frame synchronization code is made up of sixteen (16) consecutive logical one bits coupled with no more than four (4) stop bits between the characters in the data packet. The command packet is transmitted through the wire **12** using any appropriate modulation scheme. The preferred embodiment utilizes frequency shift keying (FSK) for transmitting the data packet. One method for implementing a FSK transmission is to use a higher frequency, such as 18 kHz, to transmit a logical one and a lower frequency, such as 14 kHz, to transmit a logical zero.

Figure 3 illustrates the sensor **14** of the present invention. The transceiver **34** includes a sensor processing device **40**, a limiting amplifier **42**, a driving amplifier **44**, and a frequency tuner **46** in communication with a tightly wound ferrite core antenna **48** for monitoring an electromagnetic field for disruptions and for communicating with the transponder **16**. In the illustrated embodiment, the frequency tuner **46** is a capacitor selected to tune the transceiver to the frequency having the desired sensitivity. In the stand-by, or receiver, mode, the driving amplifier **44** is turned off allowing the ferrite core antenna **48** to pick up the signal being carried through the wire **12**. The limiting amplifier **42** amplifies the received signals into logical ones and zeros and presented to the sensor processing device **40** for period measurement using a frequency discrimination technique suited for a small microprocessor. In the

illustrated embodiment, frequency discrimination is achieved by comparing the measured period to a predetermined threshold level. Conversely, in transmitter mode, the driving amplifier **44** is activated and the desired transmission frequency generated by the sensor processing device **40** for the current response character is impressed on the input to the driving amplifier **44** and broadcast by the ferrite core antenna **48**.

When a request is received by the sensor **14**, the activity measurement device **38** is activated to detect local activity. The activity measuring device **38** is positioned and adjusted such that activity near to or approaching the perimeter of the protected area **13** from the outside are detected. The detected activity signal is then encoded by the microprocessor **32** and transmitted to the transponder **16**, of Figure 1, by the transceiver **34**. Returning now to the illustrated embodiment of Figure 1, a digital signal processing device **21** conditions the signal and the transponder comparison device **22** compares the detected activity signal to exemplary activity profiles from selected sources, such as vehicles, animals, and humans, which are stored in the transponder memory device **24**. A result generated from the comparison is generated and interpreted by the transponder processing device **18**. In the illustrated embodiment, the transponder processing device **18** is configured to generate one of four responses: vehicle, human, animal, or no activity, along with the identification of the sensor **14** where the response was generated. Should activity meeting determined characteristics be detected, the transponder processing device **18** then generates an alert which is transmitted to a

user through the indicator **26** and/or to an external conventional residential and light commercial security system through the external interface **28**. One skilled in the art will recognize that the transponder processing device **18** can be configured to selectively transmit alert signals to the various outputs. For example, in one embodiment, when an animal is detected, the monitoring system **10** displays an alert at the indicator **26** but does not pass any information on through the external interface **28**. Similarly, where a human is detected, alerts are sent to both the indicator **26** and the external interface **28**. Further, one skilled in the art will recognize that the indicator **22** can vary depending upon the type and amount of information offered to the user. In the illustrated embodiment, the indicator **22** is a multi-line, alphanumeric display screen which can display the time, date, location, and type of activity. Other types of indications could be utilized, such as audio tones or light-emitting diodes representing a specific condition or location. Finally, one skilled in the art will recognize that other types of information can be communicated through the indicator **22** including, but not limited to, diagnostic information and system status.

Figure 4 illustrates the monitoring system **10'** of the present invention incorporating an electronic pet containment function known to those skilled in the art. To implement the pet containment function, the transponder **16'** additionally includes a signal generator **38'** and a transmitter **40'**. The signal generator generates a radio frequency modulated electromagnetic signal of the type used in typical pet containment systems. The transmitter **40'** transmits the containment signal through the wire **12'**. The pet **15'** to be confined wears a

receiver **17'** configured to receive the containment signal and apply a corrective stimulus upon a predetermined trigger. Because the containment signal must coexist with the other information traveling along the wire **12'**, the containment signal is routed through the gateway **20'** and the timing of the containment signal is controlled by the transponder processing device **18'**.

Figure 5 illustrates a block diagram of a transponder **12''** using an alternate method of classifying the detected activity signals. The transponder **12''** replaces the comparison device **22** and the memory device **24** with a digital signal processing device **25''**. The digital signal processing device **25''** applies a digital filter to each detected activity signal. The filtered activity signal is then classified based on the response characteristics by the processing device **18''**. The transponder **12''** incorporating the digital signal processing device **25''** is uniquely suited to use with a variety of sensor types. For example, the digital signal processing device **25''** can be configured to apply to differing digital filters to each detected activity signal based upon the sensor type, thereby allowing the processing device **18''** to identify activity in a number of differing forms and respond appropriately.

One skilled in the art will recognize that the ultimate function of the monitoring system **10** is to detect and categorize the activity prior to penetration of the protected area **13**. In this regard, various components of the system are interchangeably located without interfering with the objects of the present invention. Specifically, the signal processing device, the comparison device, the memory device, and the processing device may be located in each sensor **14** so that the

transponder **16** simply collects the results and displays the information.

One skilled in the art will recognize that both the transponder **16** and the sensors **14** can include additional electronics, including modulators, demodulators, amplifiers, filters, etc., to enhance the basic function, accuracy, and reliability of the present invention without interfering with the objects of the present invention. Further, one skilled in the art will recognize that, within each of the transponder **16** and the sensors **14,** signals can be communicated between the various components using a variety of methods including the use of a bus.

What has been disclosed is an external perimeter monitoring system using strategically placed sensors connected to a transponder by a single conductor wire bus through which data signals and power signals are sequenced. Activity detected at the sensors is analyzed to classify the source of the activity and an alert is generated if necessary. The external perimeter monitoring system is capable of interfacing with a conventional residential or light commercial security system to allow off-premises monitoring. Further, an alternate embodiment of the external perimeter monitoring system is integrated with a conventional electronic pet confinement system allowing the single conductor wire bus to serve as a radio frequency antenna defining the confinement boundary with the confinement signal added to the data signal and power signal sequencing.

While a preferred embodiment has been shown and described, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the disclosure, but rather it is intended to cover all modifications and alternate methods falling within the spirit and the scope of the invention as defined in the

appended claims.

CLAIMS

Having thus described the aforementioned invention, I claim:

1. A system for monitoring activity along an area bounded by a wire, said system comprising:

a single conductor wire defining a boundary around an area;

at least one sensor in communication with said wire, said at least one sensor for measuring local activity as a measured local activity signal and transmitting said measured local activity signal through said wire;

a gateway electrically connected to said wire, said gateway for managing transmissions through said wire;

a digital signal processing device in electrical communication with said gateway, said digital signal processing device for applying a digital filter to each said measured local activity signal to produce a filtered activity signal;

a processing device in electrical communication with said gateway and said digital signal processing device; said processing device for sequencing operation of said monitoring system, communicating with said at least one sensor, and identifying said filtered activity signal to produce an activity identification;

a power supply providing power to said system, said power supply electrically connected to said gateway for transmitting power through said wire to said sensors; and

an indicator responsive to said processing device for communicating said activity identification.

2. The system of Claim 1 further comprising an external interface in communication with said processing device, said external interface configured for interfacing the monitoring system with a conventional residential and light commercial security system.

3. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a signal generator for generating an electromagnetic signal, said signal generator being electrically connected to a transmitter for transmitting said electromagnetic signal through said wire, said transmitter electrically connected to said gateway, said electromagnetic signal broadcast from said wire such that a receiving device responsive to said electromagnetic signal provides a corrective stimulus to a pet wearing said receiving device when the pet approaches said wire.

4. The system of Claim 1 wherein each said at least one sensor is individually addressable.

5. The system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one sensor is selected from the group consisting of at least seismic, infrared, and audio sensors.

6. The system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one sensor comprises a sensor power source, an activity measuring device, a transceiver, and a communication interface.

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein said communication

interface is a transformer electrically coupled to said wire.

8. The system of Claim 6 wherein said communication interface includes an antenna oriented vertically with respect to said wire and wherein each said at least one sensor is located near but not directly over said wire and a ferrite core antenna electrically connected to said transceiver.

9. The system of Claim 6 wherein said transceiver includes a tuner electrically connected to said communication interface for tuning said transceiver to a predetermined frequency, an amplifier electrically connected to said communication interface for converting signals received from said communication interface into logical ones and zeros, a processing device electrically connected to said amplifier, said activity measuring device, and said power supply for interpreting said logical ones and zeros, and a driver electrically connected to said processing device and said communication interface for sending a measured activity signal obtained from said activity measuring device through said communication interface.

10. A system for monitoring activity along an area bounded by a wire, said system comprising:

a single conductor wire defining a boundary around an area;

at least one sensor in communication with said wire, said at least one sensor for measuring local activity as a measured local activity signal and transmitting said measured local activity signal

through said wire;

a gateway electrically connected to said wire, said gateway for managing transmissions through said wire;

a comparison device in electrical communication with said gateway, said comparison device for comparing said measured local activity signal to at least one reference signal and producing a comparison result;

a processing device in electrical communication with said gateway and said comparison device; said processing device for sequencing operation of said monitoring system, communicating with said at least one sensor, and identifying said comparison result to produce an activity identification;

a power supply for providing power to said monitoring system, said power supply electrically connected to said gateway for transmitting power through said wire to said sensors; and

an indicator responsive to said processing device for communicating the comparison result with an operator.

11. The system of Claim 10 further comprising a memory device in electrical communication with said comparison device for storing said at least one reference signal;

12. The system of Claim 10 wherein each said at least one sensor is individually addressable.

13. The system of Claim 10 further comprising a signal

generator for generating an electromagnetic signal, said signal generator being electrically connected to a transmitter for transmitting said electromagnetic signal through said wire, said transmitter electrically connected to said gateway, said electromagnetic signal broadcast from said wire such that a receiving device responsive to said electromagnetic signal provides a corrective stimulus to a pet wearing said receiving device when the pet approaches said wire.

14. The system of Claim 10 wherein said at least one sensor is selected from the group consisting of at least seismic, infrared, and audio sensors.

15. The system of Claim 10 further comprising an external interface in communication with said processing device, said external interface configured for interfacing the monitoring system with a conventional residential and light commercial security system.

16. The system of Claim 10 wherein said at least one sensor comprises a sensor power supply, an activity measuring device, a transceiver, and a communication interface.

17. The system of Claim 16 wherein said communication interface is a transformer electrically coupled to said wire.

18. The system of Claim 16 wherein said communication interface includes an antenna oriented vertically with respect to said

wire and wherein each said at least one sensor is located near but not directly over said wire and a ferrite core antenna electrically connected to said transceiver.

19. The system of Claim 16 wherein said transceiver includes a tuner electrically connected to said communication interface for tuning said transceiver to a predetermined frequency, an amplifier electrically connected to said communication interface for converting signals received from said communication interface into logical ones and zeros, a processing device electrically connected to said amplifier, said activity measuring device, and said power supply for interpreting said logical ones and zeros, and a driver electrically connected to said processing device and said communication interface for sending a measured activity signal obtained from said activity measuring device through said communication interface.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for monitoring activity along a wire-bounded perimeter. The monitoring system includes a single-conductor wire which bounds a protected area. In communication with the wire at predetermined locations is a series of sensors which are either physically or inductively coupled to the wire. The sensors measure activity the wire bounded perimeter. The measured activity is analyzed by the transponder unit which categorizes the activity. The monitoring system can operate as a stand-alone system or be integrated with a conventional residential and light commercial security system. Further, the monitoring system may incorporate a pet containment transmitter for use with an electronic pet containment system.

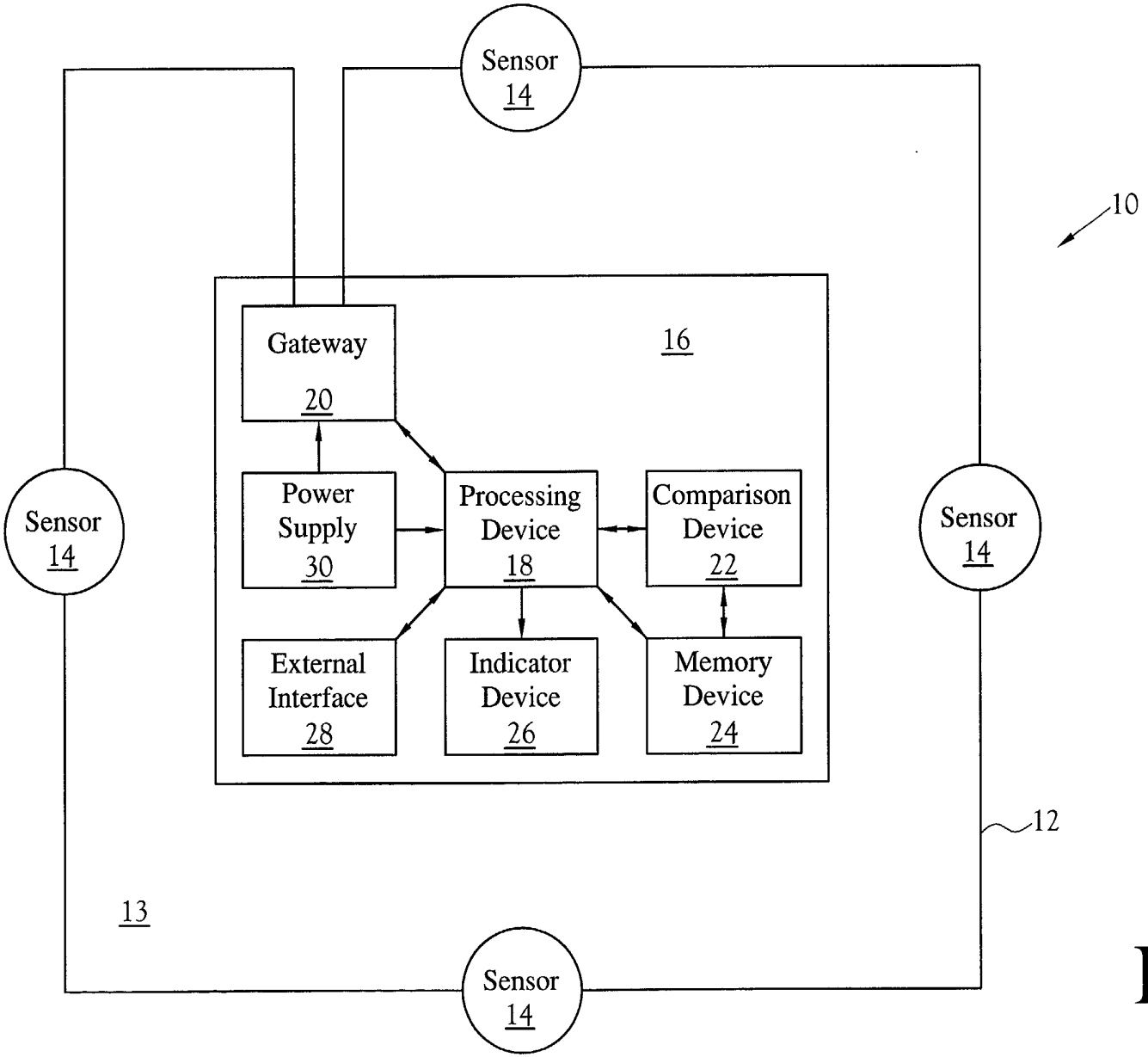


Fig. 1

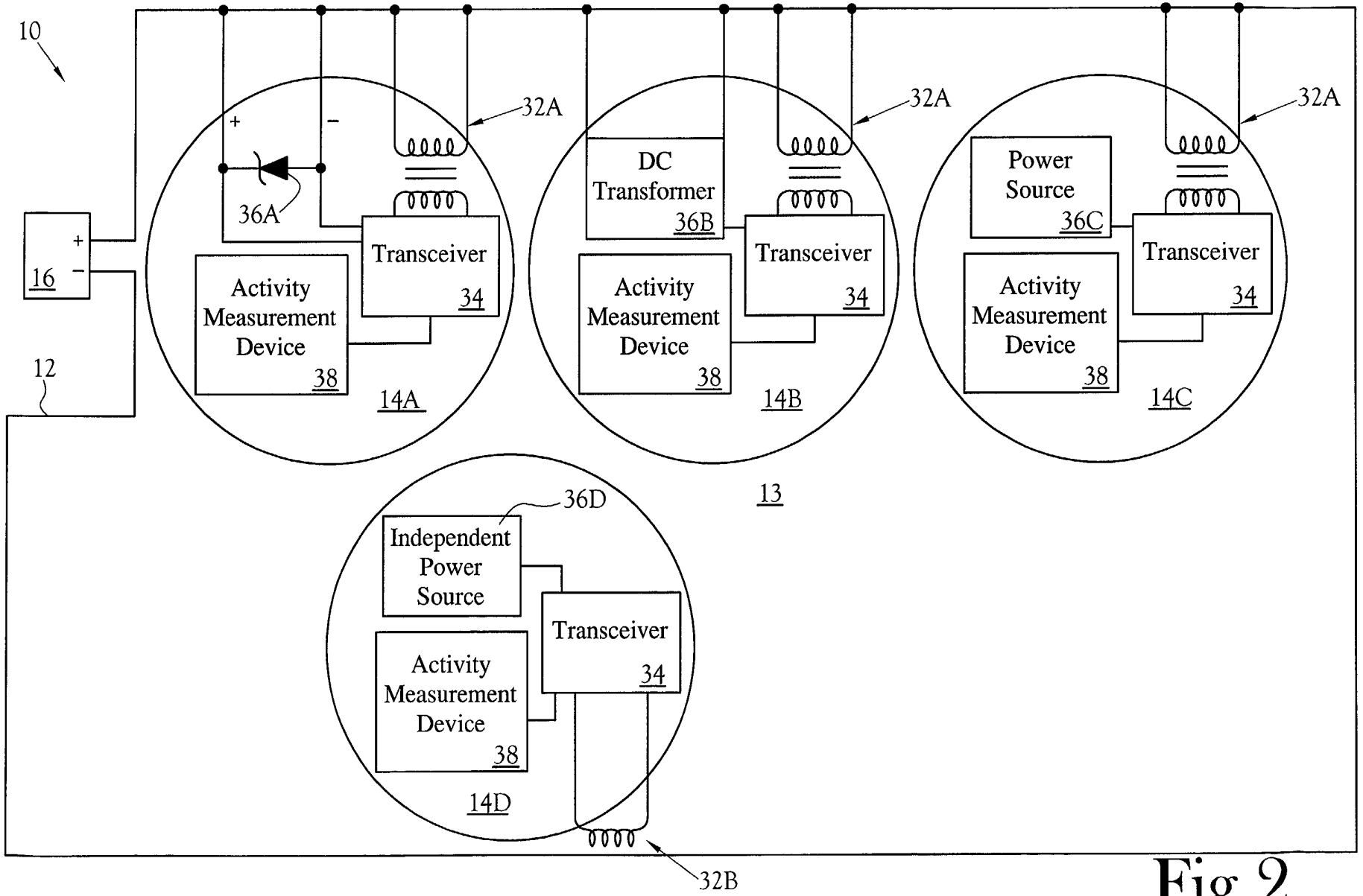

10
16
+
−
12
+
−
36A
32A
Transceiver
34
Activity
Measurement
Device
38
14A
DC
Transformer
36B
32A
Transceiver
34
Activity
Measurement
Device
38
14B
Power
Source
36C
32A
Transceiver
34
Activity
Measurement
Device
38
14C
13
36D
Independent
Power
Source
Transceiver
34
Activity
Measurement
Device
38
14D
32B

Fig.2

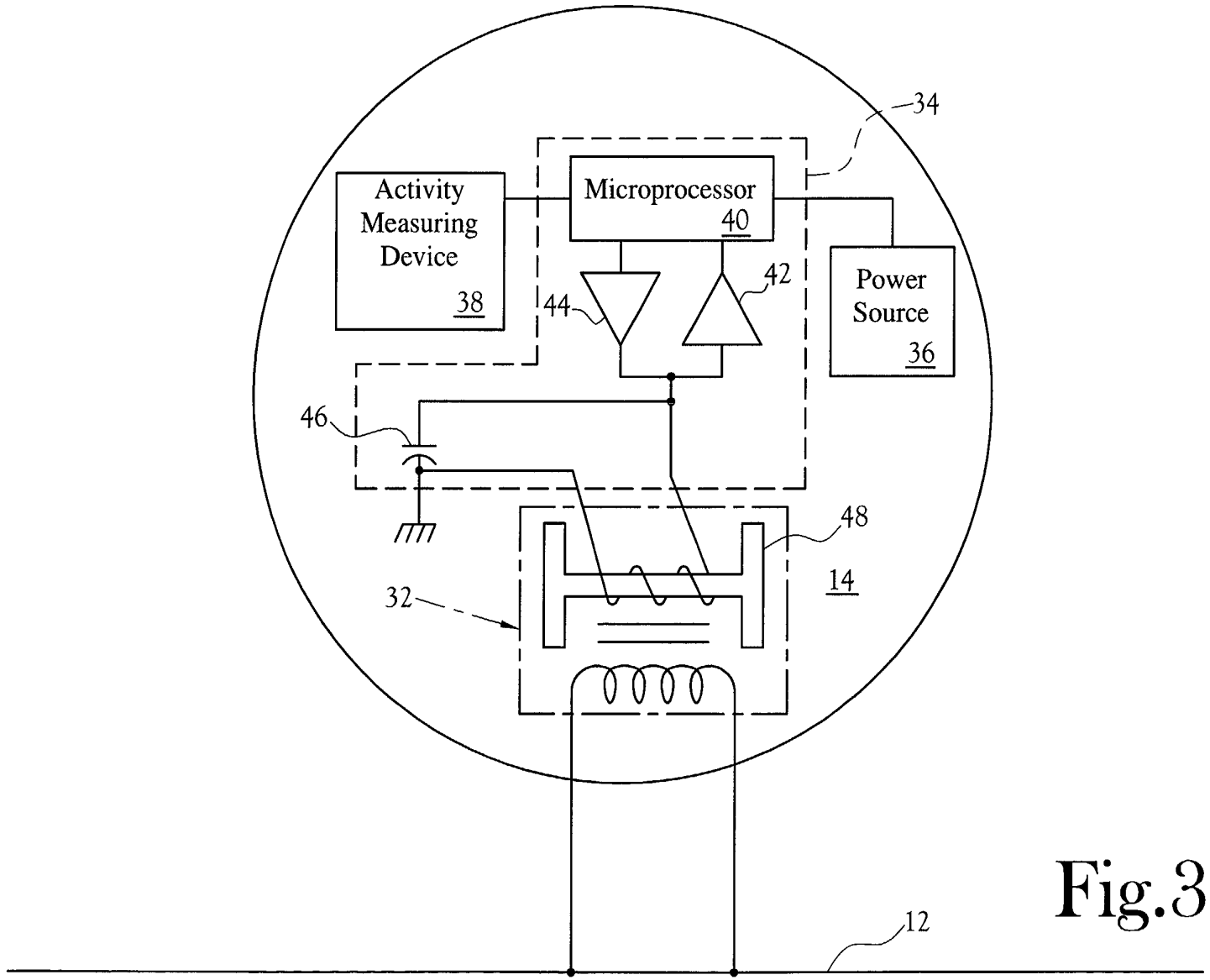
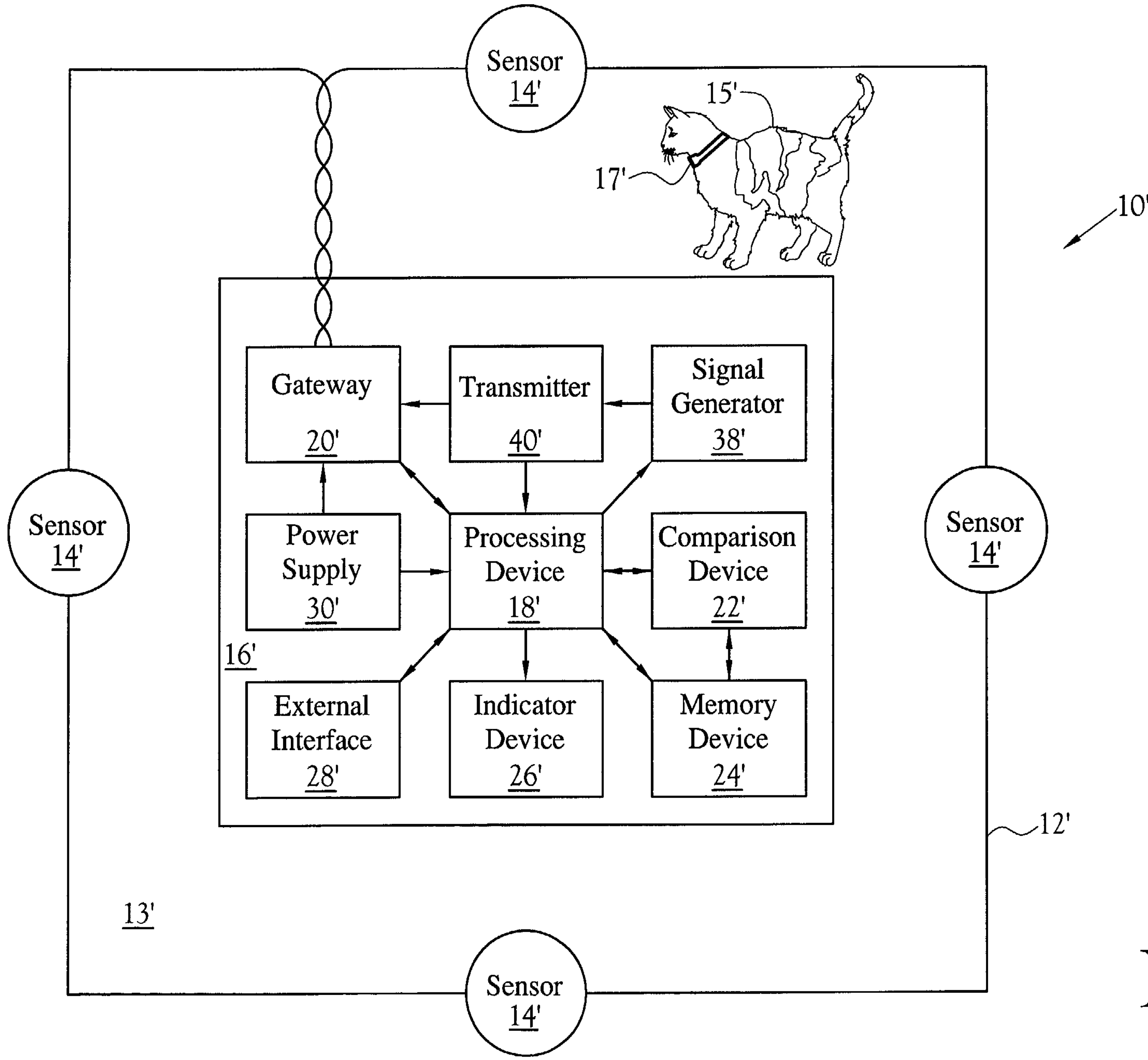

34
Activity Measuring Device 38
Microprocessor 40
42
44
Power Source 36
46
48
14
32
12

Fig.3



10'
Sensor 14'
Sensor 14'
Sensor 14'
Sensor 14'
15'
17'
16'
Gateway 20'
Transmitter 40'
Signal Generator 38'
Power Supply 30'
Processing Device 18'
Comparison Device 22'
External Interface 28'
Indicator Device 26'
Memory Device 24'
12'
13'

Fig.4

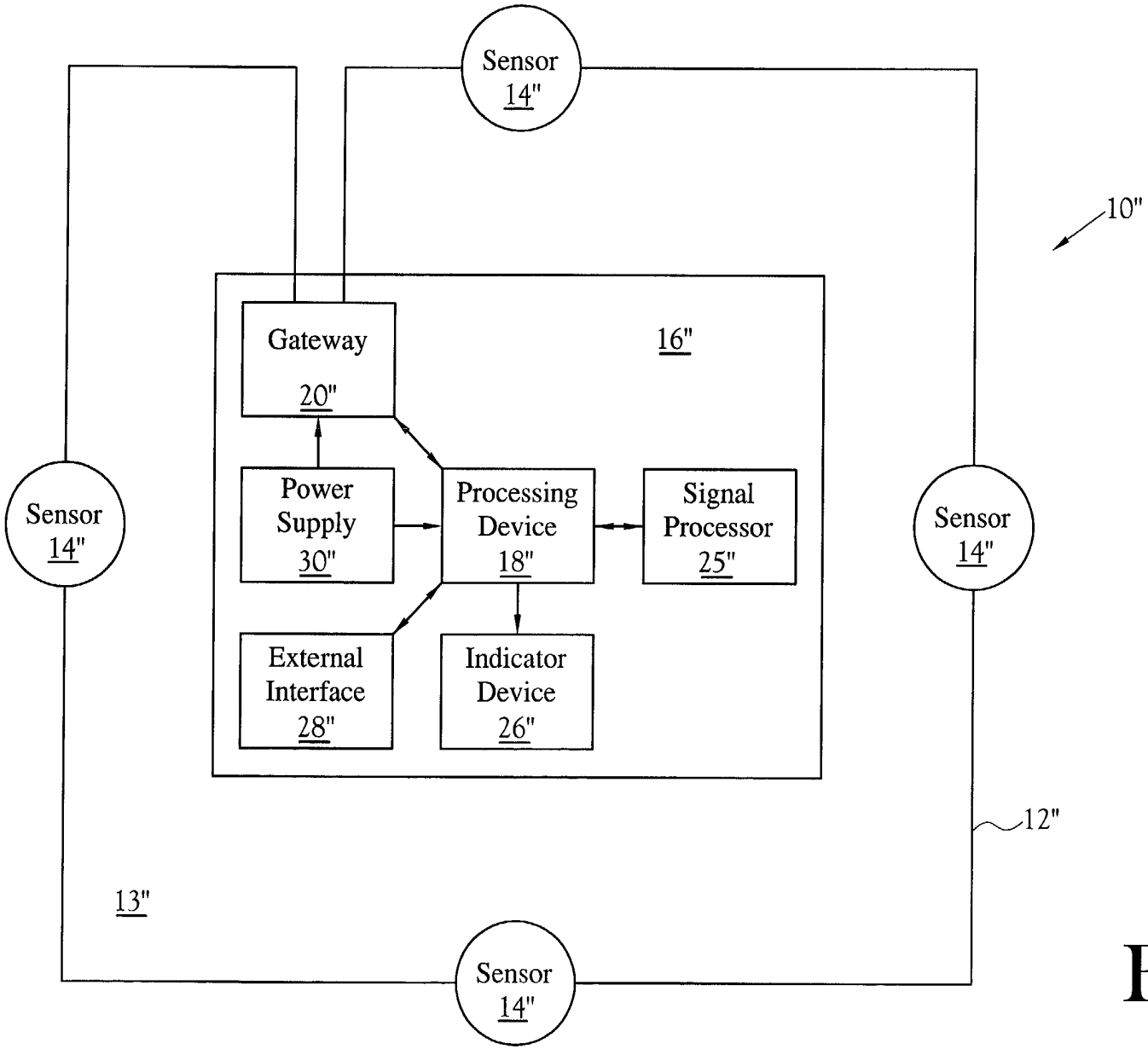

Sensor
14"
10"
Gateway
20"
16"
Power
Supply
30"
Processing
Device
18"
Signal
Processor
25"
Sensor
14"
Sensor
14"
External
Interface
28"
Indicator
Device
26"
12"
13"
Sensor
14"

Fig.5

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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)

☒ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR ☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1. 1 6 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	24200
First Named Inventor	Boyd
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	/
Filing Date	
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

External Perimeter Monitoring System

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto.

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) [ ] as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number [ ] and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) [ ] (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	NO
			☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 1 1 9(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

☐ Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 11 2, 1 acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

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As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: ☐ Customer Number [ ] → *Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here*

OR

☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Robert E. Pitts	27,371	J. Kenneth Hoffmeister	43,675
Jeffrey N. Cutler	35,486	Paul E. Hodges	20,972
Raymond E. Stephens	42,170	Louise A. Brambani	37,785
Peter L. Brewer	41,636	Jack K. Greer, Jr.	42,605

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle (if any)	Family Name or Surname
Randall D.	Boyd

Inventor's Signature						**Date**	3-8-00
Residence: City	Knoxville	**State**	TN	**Country**		**Citizenship**	USA
Post Office Address	400 Kittredge Court						
Post Office Address							
City	Knoxville	**State**	TN	**ZIP**	37922	**Country**	USA

☒ Additional inventors are being named on the 1 supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto

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ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)
Supplemental Sheet
Page 1 of 1

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:	☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor						
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Christopher E.		Mainini					
Inventor's Signature						Date	2/29/00
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Post Office Address	609 Tree Ridge Road						
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City	Knoxville	State	TN	ZIP	37922	Country	USA

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:	☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor						
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname					
Inventor's Signature						Date	
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:	☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor						
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname					
Inventor's Signature						Date	
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	

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